

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANJUL 01363 051401Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PC-05 OC-06 CCO-00 EB-08  
ICA-20 CA-01 PER-05 OPR-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00  
DODE-00 MED-05 DOE-15 SOE-02 IO-14 OES-09 SY-05  
/123 W

-----114405 060550Z /11

R 051325Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5903  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

UNCLAS BANJUL 1363

JOINT STATE, AID, PC MESSAGE

AID FORAFR/SFWA, PEACE CORPS FOR GAYMON  
DEPARTMENT FOR AF/W, AF/EX

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ENRG GA  
SUBJ: CONTINUING ENERGY CRISIS IN THE GAMBIA

REF: (A) BANJUL 1057 (B) BANJUL 1071 (C) 77 BANJUL 1660

1. REFTEL BA INDICATED THAT A REALISTIC PREDICTION FOR RELIEF OF BANJUL'S POWER CRISIS WOULD BE SIX WEEKS. IT HAS NOW BEEN SIX WEEKS SINCE THE FAILURE OF THE GAMBIA'S MAIN GENERATOR. DURING THAT PERIOD, THE SITUATION HAS STEADILY WORSENERED WITH LITTLE SIGN OF RELIEF IN SIGHT.

2. FOLLOWING FAILURE OF BANJUL'S MAIN GENERATOR, THE CITY AND SURROUNDING AREAS WERE DEPENDENT UPON TWO SMALLER STANDBY GENERATORS, WORKING FULL TIME AT 125 PER CENT OF CAPACITY. THE STANDBY SETS WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE LIMITED POWER IN SCATTERED AREAS OF BANJUL ITSELF BUT NO POWER WHATSOEVER TO OUTLYING RESIDENTIAL AREAS. SUBSEQUENTLY, ONE OF THE STANDBY GENERATORS  
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ALSO FAILED, REDUCING THE SUPPLY BY ONE HALF. FOR THE PAST WEEK, POWER HAS BEEN AVAILABLE ONLY FOR MINIMAL HEALTH AND SANITATION REQUIREMENTS. ONLY SERVICE SINCE FAILURE OF SECOND STANDBY GENERATOR HAS BEEN FOR WATER SUPPLY AND HOSPITAL.

3. TECHNICIANS AND ENGINEERS HAVE BEEN WORKING STEADILY ON GENERATOR NO. 6 FOR PAST WEEKS AND BELIEVE IT MAY BE OPERATIONAL

WITHIN ONE WEEK. NO. 6 HAS 2 MEGAWAT CAPACITY AND NORMAL SERVICE REQUIREMENTS CALL FOR 5 MEGAWATS. IF NO. 6 IS RESTORED, REMAINING OPERATIONAL STANDBY SET WILL BE SHUT DOWN FOR "THOROUGH SERVICING." RESTORATION OF NO. 6 WILL CONSTITUTE A RETURN TO THE SITUATION AS IT EXISTED DURING FIRST FEW WEEKS OF CURRENT CRISIS, I.E. LIMITED POWER IN SCATTERED AREAS OF BANJUL ITSELF.

4. IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN POST ADMIN OFFICER AND GUC (GAMBIA UTILITIES CORPORATION), LATTER OFFICIAL WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT CURRENT OUTLOOK. GUC OFFICIAL SAID, "LET'S DON'T KID OURSELVES ANY FURTHER, WE'RE INTO THIS FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER SIX MONTHS." OFFICIAL WAS HOPEFUL THAT GENERATOR NO. 6 COULD BE RESTORED, THEREBY MAINTAINING MINIMAL HEALTH AND SANITATION REQUIREMENTS. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF COMPLETE BLACK OUT FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD.

5. POSSIBILITY OF COMPLETE BLACKOUT RAISES OBVIOUS QUESTIONS OF HEALTH AND SAFETY FOR OFFICIAL AMERICAN COMMUNITY. PC DIRECTOR AND ACTING CHARGE HAVE DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF RELOCATING THOSE VOLUNTEERS PRESENTLY IN THE AFFECTED AREA TO SENEGAL SHOULD A COMPLETE BLACKOUT OCCUR. RELOCATION WOULD REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL "NORMAL" HEALTH AND SANITATION REQUIREMENTS WERE RESTORED.

6. REFTEL C (SUBMITTED DURING NOVEMBER 1977 POWER FAILURE) DISCUSSED POTENTIAL HEALTH HAZARDS OF PROLONGED POWER OUTAGE. AS INDICATED IN PARAGRAPHS 3 AND 4 REFTEL C, MOST SERIOUS SANITATION UNCLASSIFIED

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PROBLEM WOULD RESULT FROM DISRUPTION OF WATER SUPPLY. FIRES ARE ALSO A POSSIBILITY BUT LESS LIKELY AS THIS IS THE RAINY SEASON.

7. FRANCIS M'BOGE, NEWLY APPOINTED SECRETARY GENERAL, INFORMED AID/ BANJUL THAT PRESIDENT HAD SENT A MISSION TO UN AND TO AID/W TO SEEK ASSISTANCE TO ALLEVIATE THE PRESENT ENERGY CRISIS. HE REQUESTED THAT AID/BANJUL GIVE ANY ASSISTANCE POSSIBLE TO SUPPORT THEIR MISSION. NESBERG

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ENERGY  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Reference:** 78 BANJUL 1057, 78 BANJUL 1071, 77 BANJUL 1660  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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